



## 2009 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR

**Appellation:** Russian River Valley

**Blend:** 97% Russian River Valley Pinot Noir  
3% Dunnigan Hills Syrah

**Alcohol:** 13.9%

**TA:** .62

**pH:** 3.7

**Residual sugar:** .15

**Production:** 1,974 cases

### Wine Description

Mossback Pinot Noir is a blend of Russian River Valley fruit from growers that Winemaker Dan Cederquist has worked with for many years. This could be called *Dan's Farmer's Market Blend*; the best grapes purchased from the best farmers from Dan's many years of winemaking experience in the Russian River. Fruit from the Dorothy Cameron vineyard contributes the structural component: backbone and color. John Balletto's Occidental and Burnside vineyards add the rich black cherry character, and the pretty strawberry and rhubarb notes. Syrah from the Matchbook vineyard adds some weight to the delicate Pinot and a little spicy note. This is a classic Russian River Pinot Noir; elegant, silky and smooth with juicy, mouthwatering black cherry flavors framed with cream, vanilla, earth, and dusty chocolate.

### Brand Story

Mossback is an old fashioned term for farmer. The Giguiere family has had a long history of farming, and for the Mossback brand has sought fruit from some of the most renowned farmers in the Russian River Valley. Mossback also speaks to the cool weather that contributes to the unique quality of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from the coastal region.

### Winemaking Notes

The grapes were hand harvested in half-ton bins and destemmed into small open top fermentors. 10% whole clusters were added to the bottom of each fermentor prior to adding the destemmed grapes. The must was chilled to 45 degrees Fahrenheit for 48 hours for its "cold soak" to enhance the berry aromas and sweet candy quality. After the cold soak, the tanks were allowed to warm naturally and slowly for the native fermentation to start. Once started, the tanks were punched down several times a day to extract all the richness without any bitter or astringent qualities. The wine was pressed off at dryness and then aged in French oak barrels for nine months. The final blend contains a small percentage of Syrah to enhance richness and structure.

